aspirAtion

An e-magazine for aspiring & newly qualified Architectural Technology professionals

Issue 18
Spring/Summer 2024

All about The Spine

Where to find networking events in the UK

How Architectural Technology gave me purpose

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A word from the Editor

Welcome to the spring/summer issue of *aspirATion magazine*. As spring blossoms into the vibrancy of summer, we are delighted to bring you another issue filled with insights, inspiration and information tailored for aspiring and early career professionals like you.

In this edition, we hear from CIAT affiliate, Ed Kercher, who tells us how Architectural Technology has had a lasting impact on his career (so far) and how to find your passion in life.

Another academic year is drawing to a close for students and what better way to prepare those of you graduating than an excellent feature from Chartered Architectural Technologists at architecture and design practice Stride Treglown, on how you can perfect your portfolio for prospective job opportunities.

It is also time to start thinking about upgrading your student membership with CIAT. The Institute is here to support you further with your career and professional development as an Architectural Technology professional after you graduate.

In this edition, there are features on how to expand your professional network, the role of mentoring in getting 'workplace-ready' and the story behind an award-winning building that will be the location of the Institute's AGM later this year.

If you are wondering how to fill your time when summer rolls around, why not enter the AT Awards 2024 to have your work recognised by Chartered Architectural Technologists and celebrated for its excellence in Architectural Technology? Visit architecturaltechnology.com/atawards for all details.

Keep your eyes peeled for a CIAT aspirATion rebrand over the next few weeks via our website, social media channels and the next issue of this e-magazine, as our aspirATion community undergoes a bit of a refresh for a whole new look...

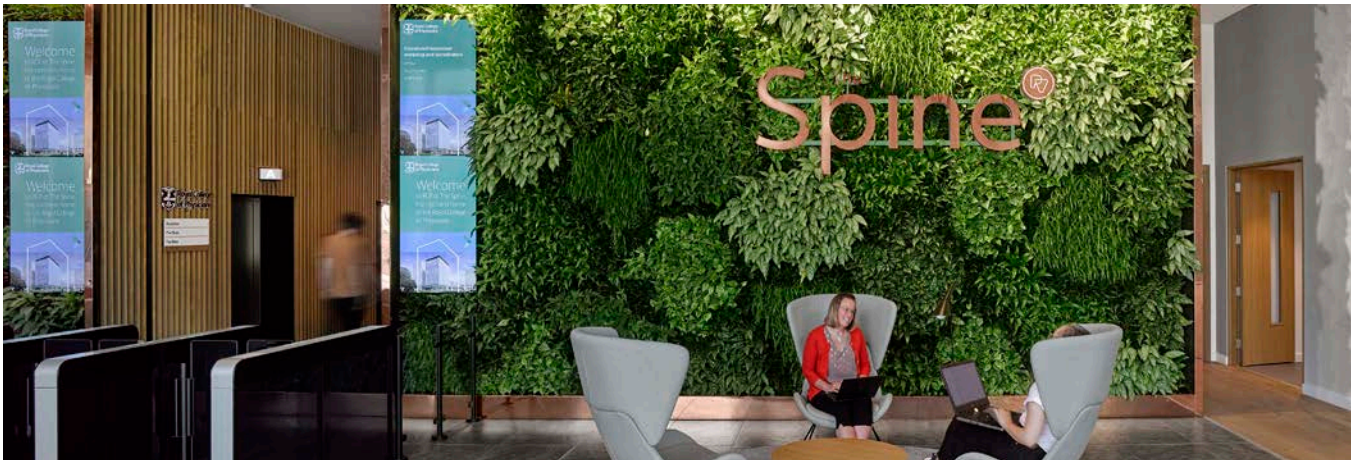
Until next time!

April McKay
Editor

Get in touch if you have any feedback, ideas or content for the next issue.

Email: a.mckay@ciat.global

In this issue...



aspirATion

The network supporting and developing aspiring professionals.

You may often think about what your career as an Architectural Technology professional or Chartered Architectural Technologist will be like, but perhaps you are unsure where to start?

It is never too early to start networking and being affiliated and engaged with certain organisations as this may be fruitful later in your career; either because you know who to contact or perhaps to find your next role. This is why CIAT is committed to helping your career get started through our aspirATion community.

What is aspirATion?

aspirATion is a forward thinking and inclusive global community of members and affiliates, made up of students, graduates, Associates, affiliates and recently qualified Chartered Architectural Technologists. The initiative aims to both support aspiring professionals as well as to help shape the future of the profession.

aspirATion is currently led by Joe Hyett ACIAT, a graduate Architectural Technologist based in the Wessex Region.

Local aspirATion Groups are formed within CIAT's Regions and Centres and led by an aspirATion Chair. These Groups will hold different events and outreach activities and work in collaboration with the following groups to organise events which can include socials, practice interviews, workshops, CPD events or site visits:

- Regional/Centre Committees
- CIAT Accredited Programmes
- Colleges and schools
- Peer groups such as
  - neighbouring aspirATion Groups
  - members of BRE Academy
  - CIOB Novus
  - RICS Matrics
  - local industry professionals

Why get involved?

aspirATion is there to help you grow personally and professionally, and will provide you with support whether you are studying, a recent graduate, an early career practitioner or have recently become a Chartered Architectural Technologist. There will be other members or affiliates that are going through the same thing or perhaps are a little further into their career, meaning they can share valuable tips from their own recent experiences.

Some of our former aspirATion Chairs have gained employment through their involvement and networking events. Similarly, several former Chairs have been appointed to other roles within the Institute such as Vice-Presidents, Regional Chairs, Councillors or as Trustees on the Institute's Executive Board, for example.

How to get involved?

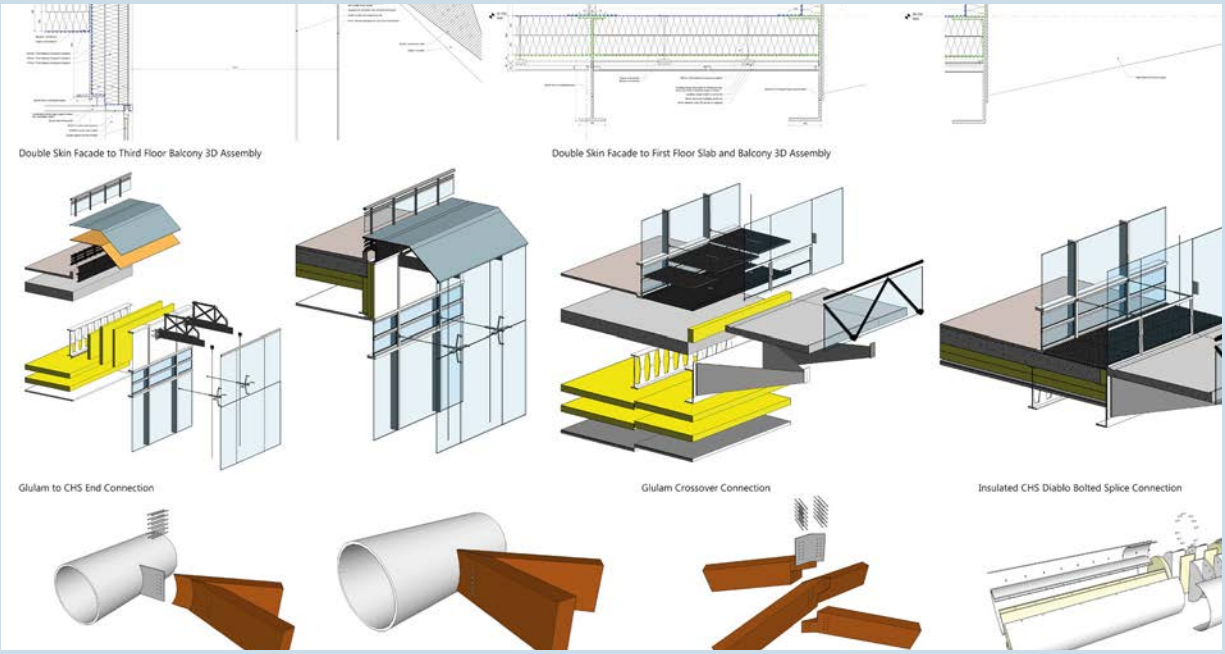
If you would like to be put in contact with your local aspirATion Chair, please email communications@ciat.global. Similarly, if you have any feedback or suggestions on aspirATion, we would be pleased to hear them. ■

Watch our new Where it's AT | aspirATion film for more insight into aspirATion and how it can help accelerate your career.

How to: Perfect your portfolio

Words by Stride Treglown

At Stride Treglown, we are interested in discovering the person behind the CV and portfolio applications. We want to understand what drives the individual and what sets you apart from every other application. Aside from the obvious high quality visualisations and images, it is always useful to demonstrate a clear capability in technical detailing.



Person behind the portfolio
The portfolio should not be limited to technical drawings and specifications as we are also interested in those peripheral skills and capabilities which lie around the primary role of an Architectural Technology professional, such as confidence, honesty, openness, and professionalism.

Careers in Architectural Technology can be varied and it is important for you to include information which best demonstrates your capability or interest. We are excited to understand your career pathway; this can often include the type of course you have studied, whether you have a conceptual or technical design focus, or the practice experience you hold, details of your education, professional qualifications, sectors, specialisms, pre- or post-graduate experience, skills, and software experience with clarification of your competency and length of usage.

Detail is key
We often find that Architectural Technology courses have a strong focus on the visualisations but the generation of construction details and understanding of what you are drawing is equally important. Lines on drawings typically reflect elements of construction works and we are looking to see that level of understanding, comprehension and pride in the drawing.

Being an Architectural Technology professional involves a clear passion for delivering inspirational buildings, but with it is an equally passionate, yet binary understanding of how details are formed in which to honour those designs. We are interested to hear about design principles which demonstrate the candidates' range of experience and knowledge to understand how their project is constructed. We will typically ask you in interview about an aspect of the detail evolution

to establish if you understand what has been drawn. It is important therefore to consider the examples you are placing within your portfolio and subsequently presenting, so as to be able to confidently discuss them.

Demonstrate your flexibility
We look for pride in the drawings you submit. A good detailed drawing can be equally pleasing to review as a fully coloured perspective visualisation. It is great to have a mixture of both, but don't limit your submission to one or the other. As Architectural Technology professionals, we are flexible and capable in both design and technical delivery and each should be included to demonstrate the breadth of your capabilities. Stride Treglown encourages ATs to run projects alongside architects, as well as independently in their own right, so we would also actively encourage evidence which demonstrates areas of specialism and capability for project running from conception to completion.

Do your research
This is probably the most important aspect for someone in creating their portfolio before approaching a practice. We would encourage you to always research the practice before submitting a CV and portfolio. It is a hard concept to pause and take a moment to do the necessary research to stand out and not simply scatter your CV to many practices by email in the hope of getting a reply. This is a major transition to make as you embark into the new workplace and it is important the practice is right for you too. An interview is always a two-way discussion and it is incredibly crucial to understand what you also want or need from an employer.

Therefore, we believe it is vital to do your research; your career is an essential part of your life so find out about the kind of practice you want to apply to, ensure it undertakes the kind of project work that motivates and inspires you, reflect on the office culture, establish what initiatives drive them and most importantly, what training and development opportunities may be available. Ultimately, before clicking 'send' on that email application, ask yourself, does the practice fit your aspirations?

It is always reassuring to hear feedback from the candidate within an interview that demonstrates a clear understanding of your ways of working, project types you deliver and essentially why it is they approached your practice and how they see themselves fitting within it.

Stride Treglown is one of the top employers of Chartered Architectural Technologists

STRIDE TREGLOWN

Employers look for pride in the drawings you submit. A detailed drawing can be equally pleasing to review as a fully coloured perspective visualisation

Be visual
Stride Treglown review submissions with equal interest and aim to understand what drives the individual's design and technology career path and their presented work. Working within a visual industry requires you to be capable of graphically communicating your skillsets and the examples you submit are essential to communicating your calibre. Submitting a written-based application without accompanying visual examples of your work is to be avoided. We delight in reviewing applications which are accompanied by a wide-ranging selection of evidence.

Extra tips
Setting up a LinkedIn profile is a great step towards creating your professional portrait as it enables you to form a network, review the industry practices and be inspired. It is also a key platform in which to share your views and experiences.

Become registered with professional bodies such as CIAT, CIOB, RICS and RIBA as early as possible. This not only promotes a Code of Conduct and professionalism we encourage, but also builds an essential support network around you whilst at university and when you leave and move into industry.

At Stride Treglown, we are always interested to hear how your career will evolve in the future and encourage progression from Associate, ACIAT or an affiliate towards Chartered Architectural Technologist, MCIAT as you begin the early stages of your career. ■

Revolutionising industry: Unleashing new talent to the built environment

Words by Tim Danson, student member, University of Brighton

Few if, any of us, in the industry are unaware of the challenges in front of us in a changed climate. This can be seen in the synchronicity spreading across the built environment, such as CIAT's recently published recommendations for the next Government, *Be the change to lead the future of our built environment*.

The UK Green Building Council has made it clear that most of the built environment needs to be urgently retrofitted if we are to continue using existing buildings, while the construction standards for new buildings need to be raised to meet commitments to net zero and Sustainable Development Goals. Simply put, the skills of an Architectural Technologist have never been in such high demand or so highly valued, as we apply the science and technology of architecture to ensure that this work is carried out effectively.

However, there are not enough of us. The industry's skills shortage has been well publicised yet shows few signs of improvement. Attracting more people is key to our success. As CIAT has recommended, greater diversity within the professions is required.

There are many school leavers and career changers keen to make a difference in the age of the Climate Emergency, and where better than our industry? The built environment is one of the largest emitters of carbon into the atmosphere, either through the materials and methods we use in construction or through the operation of the buildings themselves.

At the University of Brighton, we have launched the Built Environment Society (BES) as a collaboration between students from programmes teaching Architectural Technology, Surveying, Town Planning, and Construction and Project Management. We are drawing attention to professional pathways often unheard of by the wider public yet utterly essential to society. Through BES, we are building bridges across those professions at a local level, through professional, statutory and regulatory bodies like CIAT, industry networking groups such as Constructing Excellence, and with local businesses providing professional services. Together, we are creating a local hub for generating, demonstrating, and sharing the knowledge we need to deliver for society.

Vice-President Education, Paul Laycock MCIAT speaks to attendees at BES' inaugural event last month.

Our launch and inaugural event in April was focused on how we can work together to link our careers with society's needs, inviting professionals to meet with careers advisors, schools, and colleges. There, they heard firsthand about why these careers should be the first choice for those wanting to make a difference.

We were privileged to have Paul Laycock MCIAT, Vice-President Education, join us. He discussed the diverse pathways offered into Architectural Technology. Paul's words have sparked necessary conversations with further education providers and with local government organisations in attendance, leading to the improved professional prominence and recognition so necessary to attracting new talent.

Moving forward, BES' partner network 'BES Friends' is busy capturing ideas and planning their implementation to create a unified platform for engagement with local industry. New opportunities are being created in partnership with providers of Modern Methods of Construction and suppliers of carbon-sequestering materials and local supply chains.

Our BES Friends are being brought in to support innovative student research, giving interested learners an opportunity to directly support local industry with their undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations. Hosting practical demonstrations of materials and construction systems provides a useful and stimulating educational experience to students and professionals alike as we work together to keep our knowledge current and effective.

Success is never guaranteed, but we know that by working on what we agree with, we can achieve a great deal together. Partnership is essential to Design and Construction, so there is a lot already there that we can make use of in terms of the skills, knowledge, and passion for the job that is available.

Tim (right) with Programme Leader for BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology at University of Brighton, Poorang Piroozfar FCIAT.

It is our collective responsibility to work with our Institute to promote our profession and its value. Doing so not only enhances our own experience and understanding, it helps ensure that the wider public understands what we are doing and the importance of doing it.

No matter where you are based, please support your local CIAT Accredited programmes, aspirATion Groups and Regional/Centre Committees as an ongoing part of your career. This is an essential step towards growing our profession and delivering for the societies that we live in. ■

A journey through Architectural Technology

Words by Chiagoziem Alaribe, CIAT student member, University of Derby

I am currently a student at the University of Derby (a CIAT Centre of Excellence) studying the CIAT-Accredited programme, MSc Sustainable Architecture and Healthy Buildings.

After completing my Bachelor's in Architecture, I discovered a stronger passion for the technical aspects of building design, particularly the intricate ways materials and systems work together. While I appreciated the creative side of architecture, I gravitated more towards the problem-solving and optimisation aspects. This realisation, coupled with my passion for technology and sustainability, led me to the University of Derby and Architectural Technology.

From aesthetics to efficiency

Growing up, I have always been fascinated by the inner workings of things. Whether it was binge-watching TV shows like *Air Crash Investigation*, *Mega Machines*, *How It's Made*, and *Extreme Engineering*, or marvelling at the iconic designs of designers such as Francis Kere and Kunle Adeyemi, I have always had a keen interest in understanding the processes behind structures and machinery.

While I admired the artistic aspects of architecture, I found myself drawn to the technical side of things. The intricate engineering behind buildings and their potential to shape our lives intrigued me. It became clear to me that my passion lay in understanding how these structures function and how they can be optimised for efficiency and sustainability.

This realisation led me to pursue Architectural Technology, a field that perfectly aligns with my skillset and interests. Through the Masters programme, I am able to combine my technical knowledge with my passion for creating sustainable buildings, paving the way for a fulfilling career where I can make a tangible difference.

Life in the UK and learning opportunities
I am halfway through the programme and it has been an amazing experience. One of the biggest adjustments has been living in the UK. Coming from Nigeria, everything here seems meticulously planned, with a focus on accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability evident in everything from public buildings to traffic systems.

The University of Derby has provided exceptional learning opportunities. I have participated in numerous field trips, seminars, and events, all entriching my understanding of the field. The programme has also challenged me to expand my software skills. While I am comfortable with software like Revit, mastering new systems like IES has been a rewarding learning curve, allowing me to integrate my own technical skills with Architectural Technology concepts.

Building Performance Simulation for Sustainable Design
Currently, I am writing my final dissertation on "Building Performance Simulation for Informed Sustainable Design Decisions". My goal is to utilise building performance simulation software to evaluate the impact of a novel building material on the overall sustainability performance of a building design. This topic resonates deeply with me because it combines my passion for:

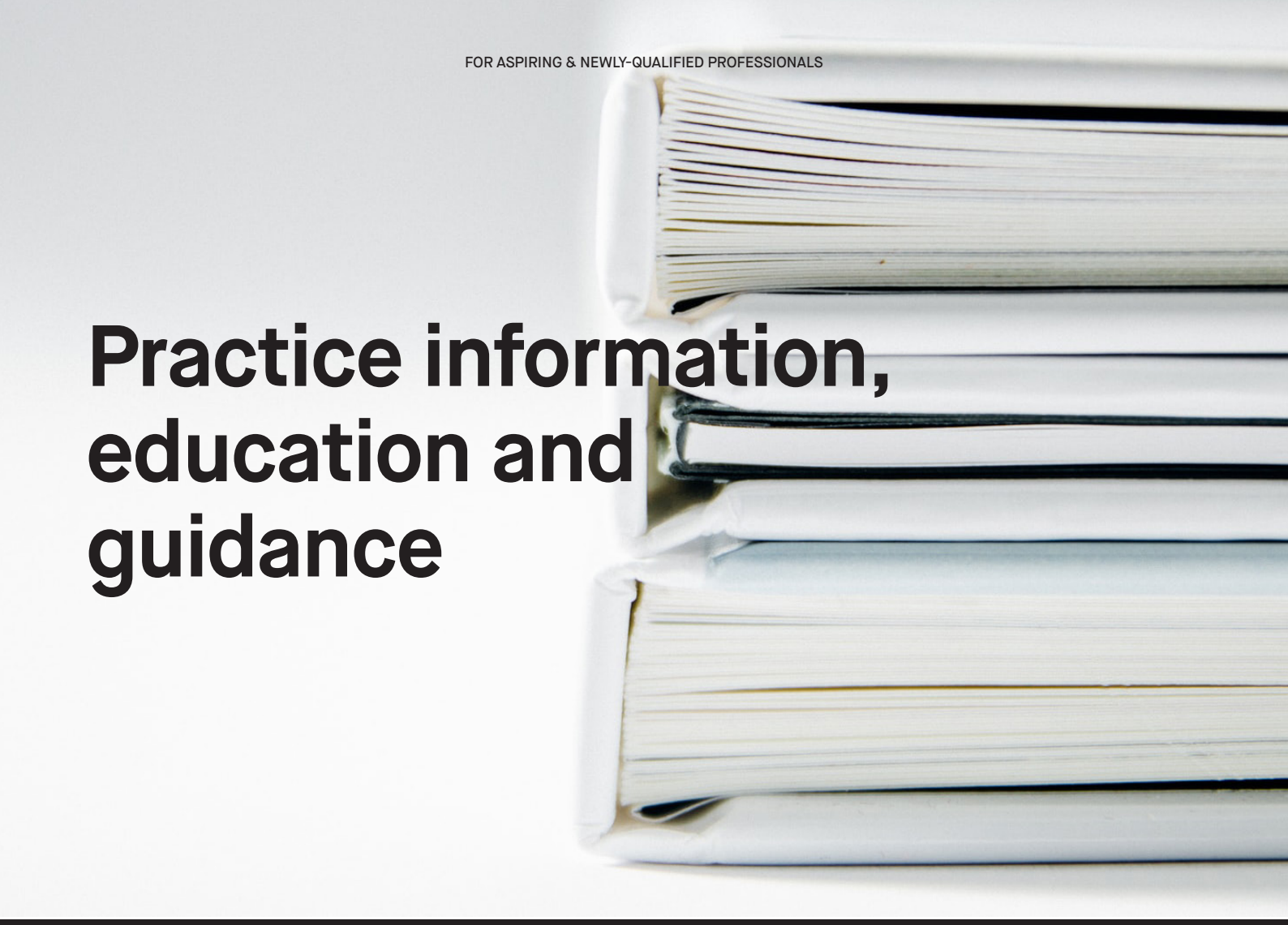
- Exploring new building materials and methods of construction
- Making data-driven sustainable decisions
- Mastering essential software for building performance calculations

> Through my Masters programme, I am able to combine my technical knowledge with a passion for creating sustainable buildings, paving the way for a fulfilling career

I am actively researching suitable material for my study but I am open to exploring any new materials or techniques that could enhance my research.

Tech enthusiasm and the future of Architectural Technology
Outside of academia, I remain actively involved in the tech world. While not a programmer myself, I stay updated on the latest trends, particularly in AI, VR, and AR. I am fascinated by the potential of AI to benefit Architectural Technology practices. Imagine localised AI systems that respect user data privacy, and personalised AI tools that handle specific tasks more efficiently than generic ones. I believe AI has the potential to revolutionise the field, and I am eager to explore its possibilities.

Looking forward
I am nearing the completion of my Masters programme and actively seek a work placement opportunity. My ideal placement would be with a firm that embraces sustainable design principles and encourages the integration of technology to optimise building performance. I am confident that my technical skills, combined with my passion for sustainable architecture, will make me a valuable asset to any team. ■



Practice information, education and guidance

Is running your own practice a career aspiration? Is it your goal to run your own business as a Chartered Architectural Technologist or in partnership or co-directorship with others?

To give you a flavour, we have produced some information on what it requires, what CIAT provides you as a practising Architectural Technology professional, and how you would establish your own CIAT Chartered Practice.

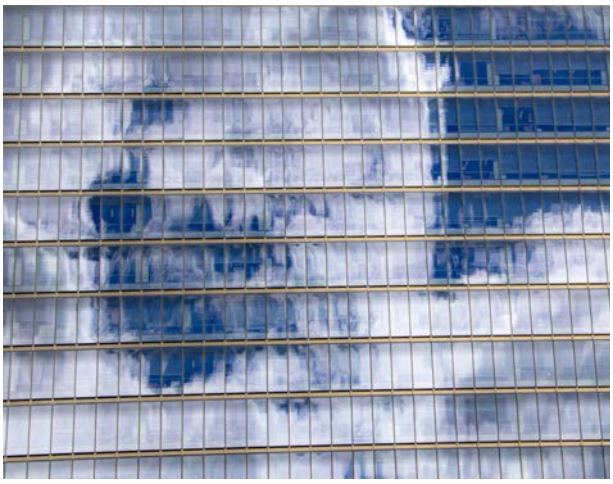
Please visit architecturaltechnology.com, log in to the My CIAT area and select *Practice information, education and guidance*.

CIAT

CIAT's recommendations for the next Government

Words by Tara Page, Chief Executive

The Institute has published its *Be the change to lead the future of our built environment* document, calling on political parties to work more closely with the built environment sector to tackle significant issues facing the country.



Published to coincide with the anticipated general election, the document focuses on three core issues: low carbon and retrofit; building safety; and skills shortages and recognition.

Low carbon and retfofit
Creation and use of our built environment is responsible for approximately 40% of the UK's carbon emissions. Tighter regulation must be implemented to achieve our net-zero goals whilst also being mindful of the financial impact. Government must prioritise retrofit of housing, public buildings and infrastructure in order to reduce carbon emissions and meet climate targets.

Building safety
Building safety is a critical aspect of responsible development and management of buildings and it is fundamental to restoring and maintaining public confidence in the built environment following tragedies, most notably Grenfell. We must work collaboratively with the Government to ensure ongoing competence of those that work within this critical area.

Skills shortages and recognition
The UK needs a wider breadth of built environment professionals with different specialisms to ensure we can deliver on key government priorities as well as its infrastructure pipeline. The Government is challenged with giving greater support to learners and new entrants into the sector, and providing greater recognition to built environment professionals who are competent and qualified to undertake important functions.

The Institute is calling for greater collaboration within the sector to address these critical areas, to ensure that we can create sustainable, resilient and inclusive communities for future generations.

CIAT President, Eddie Weir PCIAT, said:

> *"We present this three-point plan to the next UK Government, outlining key areas of focus to build a sustainable future for our nation. This will require a coordinated effort from Government, the sector, and communities to overcome barriers and accelerate progress towards a more sustainable and resilient built environment."*

The document can be accessed and downloaded by clicking the image below. ■

Where to find networking events in the UK

Words by Aylin Round, Founder, ArchJobs

We always talk about how important it is to grow your professional network, especially for students, but where can you find the opportunities to do so?

There are so many event options now, from online to in person. You could attend an awards ceremony, like the AT Awards, go to a talk, visit an exhibition, take part in webinars, join a CPD session, or just a normal networking event where you can spend time talking and meeting like-minded people like yourself. Luckily, there are plenty of events across the UK, and I will share with you where you can find them and why it is worth growing your professional network. But first, let's start with the basics:

What is networking?
Professional networking is the intentional and strategic process of building and nurturing relationships within one's industry or field. It involves connecting with peers, mentors, and professionals to exchange knowledge, advice and opportunities. Effective professional networking not only enhances career prospects but also fosters a supportive community for continuous learning and collaboration.

Why is networking important?
Whether you are just starting your career or you are an experienced professional, networking is crucial to develop in your career. You will make connections, learn from others, broaden your horizon, make friendships and share your own knowledge.

What are the advantages of networking?
Networking and engaging with other professionals within and outside your field carry a lot of weight, and you should never underestimate the power of building these connections. You never know who you will meet and who is in their network. Maybe the person you are talking to knows the director at the practice you have always dreamed of working at, and they might be able to put in a good word for you or help introduce you to their connection. But let's look at all the advantages:

Opportunities: Networking in the field of the built environment opens doors to new career opportunities, unveils job openings, new client relationships, and facilitates potential collaborations within your professional circle.

Staying up-to-date: The built environment is an ever-evolving sector where staying up-to-date on the latest trends and regulations is crucial. Interacting with other professionals helps exchange ideas, insights, and industry knowledge, fostering continuous learning and adaptation to industry advancements.

Career advice and mentorship: Networking provides access to experienced professionals who can offer valuable guidance and mentorship, aiding in navigating the unique challenges and opportunities within the sector.

Visibility: Building a strong network enhances your visibility within the industry, increasing the likelihood of being considered for job opportunities and projects.

Skill development: Engaging with diverse professionals exposes you to different perspectives and skills, contributing to your personal and professional growth in the field. Attend various networking events across different sectors to broaden your knowledge base, help innovative thinking, and problem-solving skils.

Confidence building: Going to networking events and talking to strangers can feel daunting. Still, getting outside your comfort zone will help you develop your interpersonal, communication, and potentially even presentation skills.

Access to resources: Your network serves as a valuable resource hub, providing information, the latest software tricks, and support during challenging times in your career journey.

> Networking and engaging with other professionals within and outside your field carry a lot of weight. You never know who you will meet and who is in their network.

Where to find networking events in the UK
There are so many networking events, workshops, talks, exhibitions, tours, and CPD sessions available but you may not know where to look and how to find them. By not attending any events you could be losing out on potential job offers, connections, mentors and more. If you are currently at university, this should be one of your main priorities to grow your professional network while studying. I hear from so many talented early career professionals who are struggling to find a job because they have not invested the time to attend events, where you might meet your future boss. You need to grow your network before you need it.

CIAT promotes and hosts a wide range of workshops, webinars, exhibitions, seminars, online, in-person events and more across the UK, as well as their annual AT Awards event in October. Head over to their events page to discover more.

Using LinkedIn to connect and maintain your network
Do not forget, attending these types of events is perfect for connecting with professionals either during or afterwards on LinkedIn. Many professionals do have a LinkedIn profile and use the platform to exchange, share, and maintain their network. So, do not miss out – invest time in creating your own LinkedIn profile. It will be incredibly useful for your career.

Conclusion
In the built environment, making connections is not just a thing to do but it will help you to have a more successful career and help your personal development. Whether you are just starting or you are a seasoned professional, networking is what moves your career forward.

Networking is a powerful tool, and many underestimate the impact it can have on their professional journey. It offers insights into what is happening in your field, mentorship from experienced professionals, and a supportive network of friends. Additionally, it helps develop your interpersonal and communication skills.

So, regardless of where you stand in your career, consider networking a necessity, not an option. Every conversation you have will help you gain more knowledge and valuable insights. Build connections, nurture your network, and leverage it to your advantage. Always remember to build your network before you need it. It takes time, but it will be worth it in the long run. ■

Tip

When sending a connection request on LinkedIn, take a moment and write a short message. You could write something like this:

Hi [Name],

Great meeting you at [event] yesterday. Enjoyed our conversation about [topic].

Let's stay connected here on LinkedIn.

All the best,

[Your Name]

How Architectural Technology gave me purpose

Words by Ed Kercher, CIAT affiliate, Co-founder, HMO Designers

I know the title sounds dramatic, but give me a moment to explain. For context, let's start at the beginning. I was never a person who knew exactly what I wanted to do early on in life. I think that is quite common.

When I heard about people who knew early on, I was jealous. Why did I not have the same focus? As annoying as that feeling was, the one trait that I do possess is determination. I had a determination to find something I loved doing, something that made me jump out of bed in the morning. For that reason, I knew that if I was going to find my purpose, I needed to try as many things as possible.

After I graduated from college (not the best academic period of my life), I remember sitting in the living room with my mother and flicking through Solent University's brochure of courses. It was in alphabetical order and thus the CIAT Accredited programme, Architectural Design and Technology was at the front. My mum said to me:

> *"Ed, what do you think of this? You're good at graphic design and product design, maybe that would suit you?"*

I replied:

> *"Why not? Lets give it a go."*

It was not exactly a stars aligining in the heavens moment! All the same, my mum was right. I did enjoy engineering, but I also had a keen eye for design, which, after visiting the Solent University open day, was something that Architectural Technology brings together in a balanced cohesion. What is the moral of this story? Sometimes in life, you just have to give things a go. I have always been a strong believer in gut feeling, and something was pulling me towards the Architectural Design and Technology programme so my intuition told me to enrol.

Fast forward three years and I was graduating as one of the highest-achieving students (I had previously never been a high academic achiever), with first-class honours, a job at ADAM Architecture, and triumph as a winner in the Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology | Project for *The Gateway Hotel Design Project* at the AT Awards in 2017.

My apologies if that sounded like a spiel of braggery, but I believe it is a good way of highlighting what a few years of finding something that you love and are passionate about can do for your future prospects and career.

Towards the end of my time at university, all the students on the programme were encouraged to submit their final year projects for the AT Awards. Before winning the award, it was not something that I ever believed myself capable of. To anyone reading who is thinking of being a part of the AT Awards, all I can say is it could be one of the best moments in your career – it certainly was for me.

After the Awards, with the huge sense of achievement it gave me, along with exposure to the industry, I progressed at ADAM Architecture, working my way up to running classically designed, luxury, multimillion-pound construction projects. I gained the fundamental experience I needed to as an Architectural Technologist. I have nothing bad to say about my experience at ADAM; it is an amazing place to work but I knew I wanted freedom, and the corporate structures there did not suit my protagonist mindset.

After two years, I decided to go travelling for a year where I truly gained my freedom and autonomy and realised a heavily structured way of working was not for me. When I returned, I went back to my job because they had graciously offered me a sabbatical (something I would advise anyone who is thinking of going travelling), but I was plotting my next move. I used all my weekends and evenings to create income outside of work which could then cushion my exit from the safety net of regular income. I set up an Instagram account where I documented the renovation of my house (@edshomereno if you are interested). I grew a large following and I began to get paid for partnerships.

More poignantly, I set up my first business, InCollective Limited and then later HMO Designers. At InCollective, we specialise in high-end residential projects. HMO Designers does not take much explaining and I am sure you can guess that this practice is focused on houses in multiple occupation (HMO) properties, but we only work on luxury HMOs focused at professionals in inner-city locations. By having very niche but entirely different architectural practices we can mitigate future down periods and easily target our audiences. We are a small team but manage to produce a high volume of quality work. There is no static office because we wanted to structure things differently. Giving people the freedom to make their own decisions and work from wherever they want means we attract talent and new ways of thinking.

I did not know Architectural Technology would have such a massive impact on my life, and I did not know I wanted to work in the discipline until quite later on. But if you try enough things, something will take over as your passion. Thanks for reading, and I wish you all prosperity in your current or future careers. ■

All about The Spine

Words by Liam Briggs MCIAT, Chartered Architectural Technologist, AHR & Chair, aspirATion North West

Issue 17 described the widely successful North West Regional Conference held last October, where members and affiliates heard from the Institute's President, Eddie Weir PCIAT, former President, Kevin Crawford PPCIAT MCIAT, and a fantastic array of professionals and members across the North West Region. This is the story behind the award-winning building that provided the backdrop. An in depth look at The Spine, located in Liverpool's ever expanding Knowledge Quarter, and the northern home for the Royal College of Physicians (RCP).

Founded by a Royal Charter from Henry VIII in 1518, the RCP of London is the oldest medical college in England. Prior to its foundation, medical practice in England was poorly regulated and lacked formal training and knowledge. The college was set up to provide a pivotal role in raising standards and shaping public health. For the first time in their history, The Spine will provide RCP with a significant prescence outside of London.

RCP said:

> *"Our presence in Liverpool helps RCP to become more involved in the health of the local community, supporting one of our major policy initiatives to reduce health inequality. It provides an opportunity to become involved in regional public health research that could contribute to healthier lives, reduce multiple morbidities and health inequality, working closely with existing organisations such as the Northern Health Science Alliance, local health commissioners and providers."*

The client's brief, 'people will feel healthier when they walk out of the building than when they walk in', formed the philosophy behind AHR's design approach to The Spine, which is one of the few certified WELL Platinum buildings in the UK. The WELL Building Standard is a performance-based system for certifying and monitoring the built environment, its connection to user health and wellbeing. When compiling

the WELL Building Standard, creator, Delos Living LLP referred to much of the RCP's research. The standards consist of seven concepts – air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind. These concepts incorporate a total of 102 features of a building that can be designed to optimise the health of the occupants of the building and create an environment to promote a healthy and happy workforce.

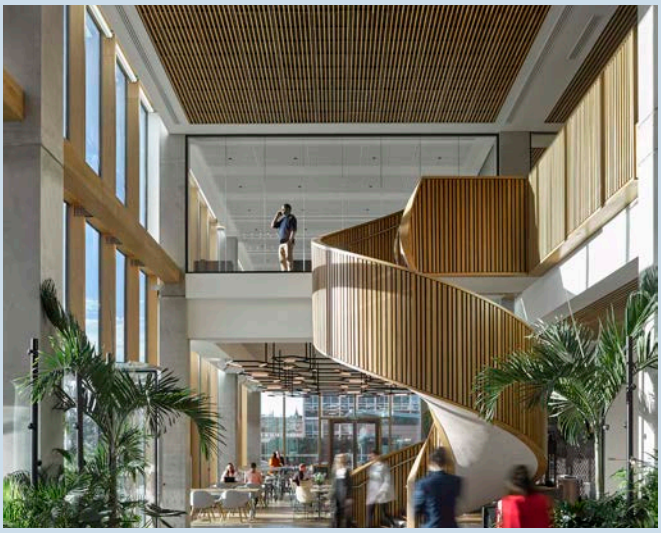
Design

On the walk up from Liverpool Lime Street Station, along Brownlow Hill, penetrating through the thickness of late October fog, my first glance of The Spine was its illuminating patterned façade, which draws from the Voronoi diagram, also known as Voronoi tessellations. Influenced by the human skin, across the façade there are 23 million individual polygons, each articulated through digital modelling, which subsequently provides internal shadows reminiscent of a forest canopy.

Following the Japanese practise of Shinrin Yoku, or forest bathing, the shadows created by the façade move across the space throughout the day, creating a dynamic, changing environment. From the exposure to natural light, and the shifting seasons, people have an increased awareness of natural processes, helping them to synchronise with their circadian rhythms and remain connected to their natural sleep patterns.

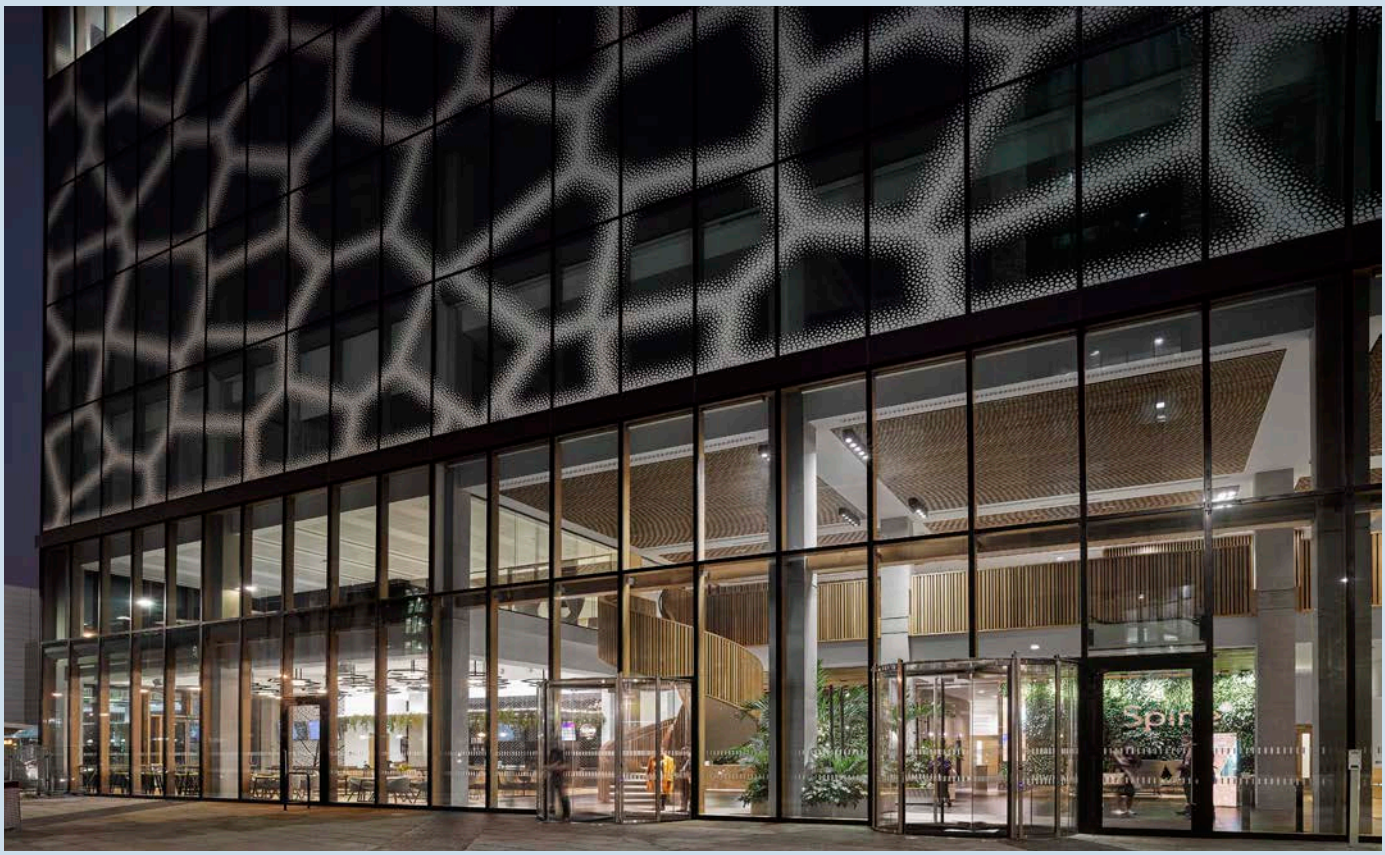
Internally, as you walk through the building, it is easy to miss the subtle nods to biophilic design, purposely and carefully curated to enhance the user experience. Biophilic design in the context of the building industry is the concept of increasing occupant connectivity to the natural environment using direct nature, indirect nature and space and place conditions.

An abstract representation of the human lungs, The Spine's collection of double height sky gardens acts as a vertical village connected between floors with timber clad helical staircases. Each sky garden contains a mix of plants and



trees. The flora has been selected not only to enhance the visual environment, but specifically on their air-purifying properties promoting increased oxygen levels to locations where staff members will congregate, work and circulate. Regular air quality monitoring has shown people's health and cognitive performance has improved by 10-20% as a result of salutogenic planting and the highly specified air supply and filtration system.

Terrapin Bright Green's excellent report describing the 14 Patterns of Biophilic Design can be contextualised in much of the finishes. The eighth pattern 'Biomorphic Forms and Patterns' describes symbolic references to contoured, patterned or numerical arrangements that persist in nature (TBG, 2014) can be found in elements such as the curtain wall façade system – the Voronoi pattern, but also internal timber cladding along mullions and transoms, to continue visible connectivity to nature. Other references are exposed to concrete columns which are moulded to reflect the trabecular system within human bones, which is the strongest part of a bone for reflecting mechanical stress.



Space planning workstations to ensure optimal levels of natural light led to the limitation of each station to 7.5m from a window. To promote connectivity with the building's principles, each workstation has access to a dashboard, allowing control of lighting and temperature in their immediate vicinity.

Questions
As part of my writing of this article, I had the pleasure of speaking with Rob Hopkins, Director at AHR, lead architect and designer on The Spine. and oracle of knowledge on biophilia and sustainable design.

What was the design process for creating the façade in within a digital context?
Once we had developed an initial idea around developing the design of the façade of the building to represent the human integumentary system, the development of this solution was going to be a challenge. Working closely with the supply chain of the façade sub-contractor, we developed a solution which could be delivered using their standard process adopted for applying frit patterns to glass. Whilst frit patterns may previously have relied on the use of screen prints to apply the liquid ceramic before fusing this into the glass, this has more recently evolved to a printed process which reduces the need to replicate the same pattern on every piece of glass being treated.

We developed the pattern using the Grasshopper plug-in for Rhino, describing the mathematical formula for a voronoi and then making this specific to the orientation of each elevation to apply an amount of coverage to reflect the level of solar protection required. Once the pattern had been developed and the constraints of construction applied, this was then broken down into each individual pane of glass.

How important is technology in operating and maintaining a building which achieves a WELL Platinum standard?
Whilst the WELL standard focusses on human behaviours and the health outcomes of creating high quality environments, there is a significant amount of technology utilised within the background to support this.

Environmental sensors are placed around the building to measure humidity, CO2, air quality and temperature. These can feed back into the BMS system and alerts are also sent to the building manager to alert them if the parameters of the WELL standard are not being met. In reality, where WELL requires a maximum CO2 level of 900PPM, this has rarely been seen to go over 600PPM. Equally, the requirement for 10PPM for PM2.5 particles has never been measured above 4PPM.

Sensors are also located around the planted areas which control a biophilic lighting system and ensure that sufficient light is being delivered to each plant. These lighting systems ensure that plants are supplied with sufficient light without them being over stimulated with too much light.

Building occupants are given access to a desktop interface on their computers to give live updates on temperatures, CO2 and air quality. Again, this helps give people re-assurance that the correct levels are being maintained.

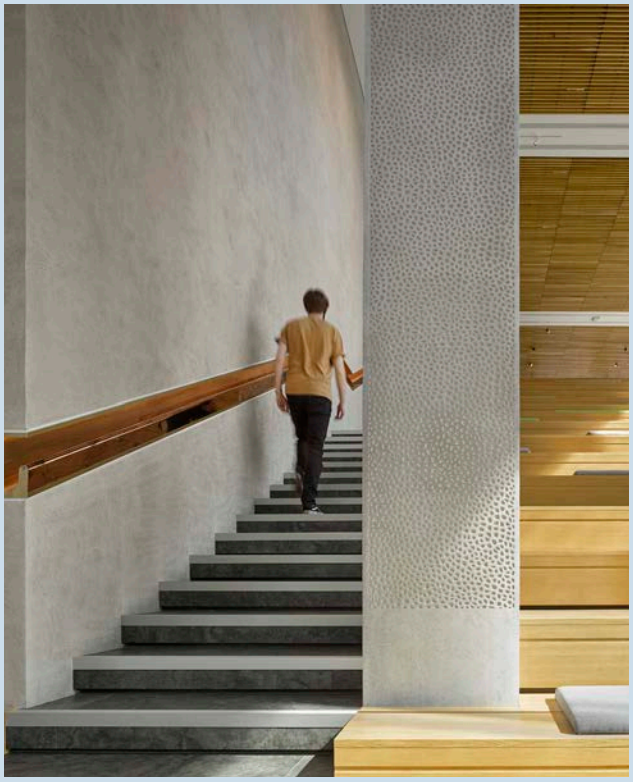
The building technology also reaches to the menus in the ground floor café. As the chefs on the top floor develop the menu for the day, both the options and their nutritional information is uploaded onto the system to ensure it complies with the WELL requirement to share this information at the point of sale.

Finally, digital displays have been located within the central core area. These are updated regularly to share health facts around both the building and the way that occupants can improve their own health.

Did you face any construction challenges when creating the trabecular pattern on the internal facades, and how was this done?
The bespoke trabecular columns developed in the ground floor area were designed as an abstract representation of the human skeleton. The trabecular system is the honeycomb structure inside human bones. AHR worked with Reckli, who are suppliers of bespoke concrete shuttering systems, to develop a pattern for the building.

An initial concept was developed using Grasshopper and shared with the Reckli. 3D prints were initially output at 1:1 scale to understand what the pattern would look like and Reckli then gave input into the depth and shape of the holes which would be suitable for striking the shuttering from the concrete. Once the Grasshopper model had been updated to reflect this, 3D models were supplied to Reckli who produced the shutter liners to create a full scale mock up column.

From the mock up, we were able to finalise the mix of concrete to be used which gave us both the colour we were seeking and the ability to achieve the height of columns we wanted to achieve at over 9m in a single pour of concrete.



Following the success of The Spine, how important are, and how do designers implement, biophilic principles in future schemes, where it is not a primary focus?

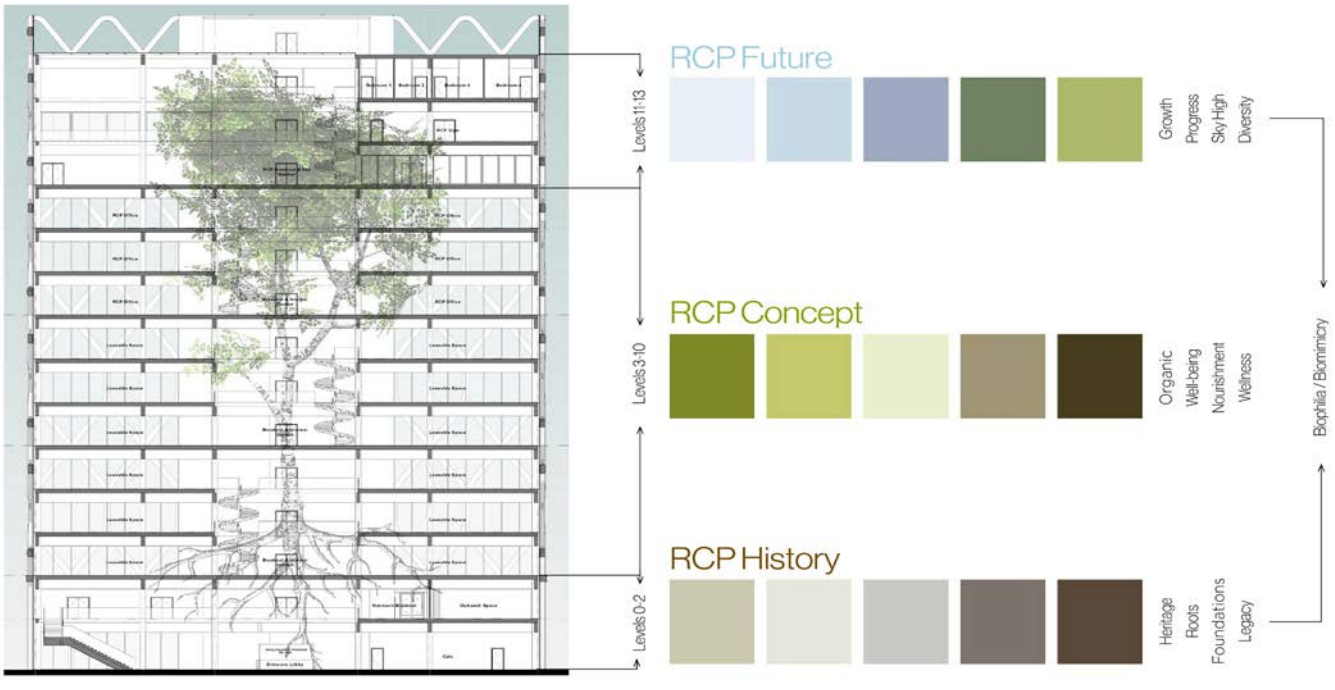
The consideration of biophilic design is now integrated into our design process. The positive impact that this has on people's health and health outcome is something we want

to promote on all our buildings, regardless of whether we are seeking any formal accreditations.

Conclusion

The development has enabled the Knowledge Quarter in Liverpool to attract further leaders in science, health, technology, culture and education. This has already manifested in the recent opening of a Pandemic Institute in The Spine and over the next decade it will continue to establish Liverpool as one of the world's leading healthcare innovation districts. The panoramic views sweeping across the River Mersey to the Pennines may have hidden themselves behind a curtain of autumnal grey, but a leading exemplar of biophilic design provided the ideal setting for the North West Regional Conference, as we look to 2024 and beyond with sustainability and healthy building design as leading questions within the field of Architectural Technology. ■

The Institute's AGM will be held at The Spine on 16 November 2024



Upgrade your student membership with CIAT

If you have recently completed your studies, we want to demonstrate our ongoing support and commitment to your future career and professional development.

We are also here to support you in furthering your career and professional development after you graduate and begin the next part of your journey as an Architectural Technology professional.

CIAT has collaborated with recruiter Hays to create an **employability guide here** which provides helpful tips and information regarding creating your CV and developing your portfolio, how best to apply for jobs and prepare for interviews, as well as advice on being offered the job and building a successful career. In addition to this, the Institute has its own jobs board - **AT|jobs** - and there are other recruitment agencies which can advise and support you.

Next steps
Once you have graduated, we invite you to take your involvement and engagement with CIAT to the next level and upgrade to either Associate, ACIAT or affiliate status. Upgrading with CIAT will demonstrate to future employers your commitment to your career progression.

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Integrating lean principles and scrum methodology in architectural design: a paradigm shift

Words by Cieran Joce ACIAT, Architectural Technologist, ESA Architecture

In the realm of architectural design, the integration of lean principles and agile methodologies such as Scrum has emerged as a transformative approach, revolutionising the traditional paradigms of design and project management.

Originating in manufacturing and later adopted by the software industry, lean principles emphasise the elimination of waste, continuous improvement, and customer-centricity. On the other hand, Scrum, a subset of agile methodology, offers a flexible framework for collaborative work, iterative development, and adaptive problem-solving.

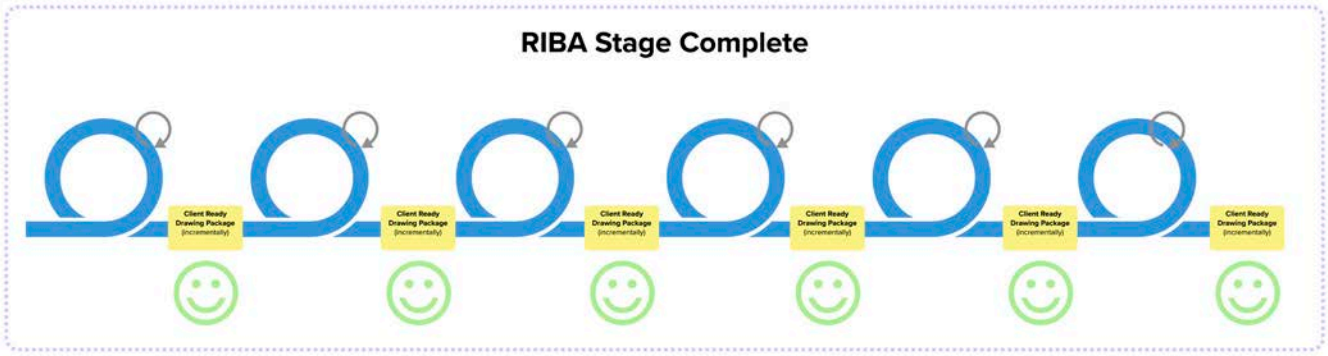
This article explores the application of lean principles and Scrum methodology in architectural design, highlighting their benefits, challenges, and the potential for a paradigm shift in the industry.

Lean principles, derived from the Toyota Production System, have found resonance in architectural design by fostering efficiency, sustainability, and value creation. One of the fundamental tenets of lean thinking is the minimisation of waste, which translates into optimising the use of information and resources in architectural projects.

By eliminating non-value adding activities, designers can streamline the design process, reduce costs, and enhance overall project delivery. Moreover, lean principles promote a holistic approach to design, encouraging designers to engage stakeholders, understand user needs, and prioritise functionality over embellishment.

According to the Lean Construction Institute, projects that implement lean thinking are three times as likely to complete ahead of schedule and twice as likely to come in under budget. For this to be a success, incorporating lean principles into architectural design requires a shift in mindset from a focus on individual tasks to the entire project lifecycle.

Designers must adopt a proactive approach to identify and mitigate potential sources of waste, whether it be excessive documentation, over-specifying, or unnecessary rework. Furthermore, lean thinking encourages continuous improvement through regular feedback loops and data-driven decision-making, enabling designers to refine their designs iteratively based on client feedback and evolving requirements.



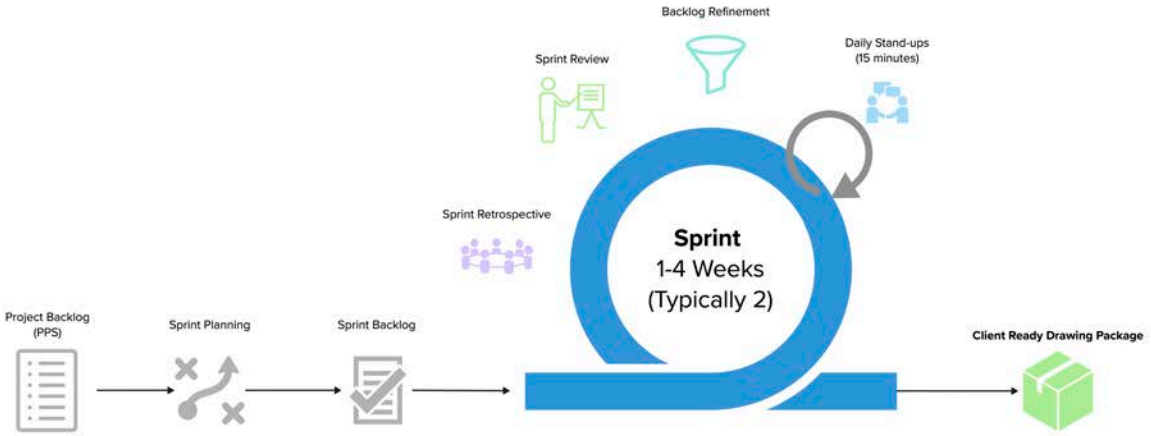
Enter Scrum methdology, a collaborative framework that empowers cross-functional teams to deliver value incrementally through short, time-boxed iterations known as sprints. While originally developed for software development, Scrum's adaptable nature makes it well-suited for complex, creative endeavours such as architectural design. By breaking down projects into manageable chunks and establishing clear roles and responsibilities, Scrum promotes transparency, accountability, and adaptability within design teams.

Central to Scrum methodology is the concept of the Scrum Master, a facilitator responsible for removing impediments, fostering collaboration, and ensuring adherence to Scrum principles. In the context of architectural design, the Scrum Master plays a crucial role in guiding the design process, facilitating communication between stakeholders, and promoting a culture of continuous improvement. Moreover, Scrum's emphasis on regular retrospectives encourages designers to reflect on their practices, identify areas for improvement, and adapt their processes accordingly.

The integration of lean principles and Scrum methodology in architectural design offers several notable benefits. Firstly, it promotes a more responsive and client-focused approach, ensuring that architectural solutions align closely with user needs and preferences. Secondly, it fosters collaboration and cross-functional teamwork, breaking down silos and promoting knowledge sharing among designers, engineers, and other stakeholders. Thirdly, it enhances project visibility and transparency, enabling stakeholders to track progress, identify potential risks, and make informed decisions in real-time.

However, despite its numerous advantages, applying lean principles and Scrum methodology in architectural design is not without its challenges. One of the primary obstacles is the cultural shift required within architectural firms, where traditional hierarchical structures and entrenched practices may resist change. Moreover, the inherently subjective nature of architectural design poses challenges in quantifying progress and measuring success, making it difficult to apply traditional metrics used in Scrum.

Nevertheless, the potential benefits of integrating lean principles and Scrum methodology (or a new version of) in architectural design far outweigh the challenges. By fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement, designers can deliver projects that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also functionally efficient, sustainable, and socially responsible. As the architectural industry continues to evolve in response to changing societal needs and technological advancements, embracing lean principles and agile methodologies will be essential in shaping the future of architectural design. ■



Manipal International Symposium on Design 2024

Words by Sarah Merchant, School of Design & Architecture, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai Campus

The Manipal International Symposium on Design (MiSD) 2024, hosted by the School of Design & Architecture (MAHE) Dubai in collaboration with CIAT and Edinburgh Napier University, marked a significant milestone in the convergence of architecture, technology and sustainability.

Held on 15 & 16 February 2024, the symposium brought together a diverse array of participants, including academia, industry professionals, policymakers, and design enthusiasts, both in-person and virtually. MiSD 2024 was a collaborative venture and was co-hosted with CIAT and Edinburgh Napier University. This collaboration underscored the symposium's commitment to fostering international dialogue and knowledge exchange. Over the past seven editions, the symposium has uniquely combined workshops, seminars, panel discussions and design competitions. In keeping with its tradition, we perceived MiSD 2024 as a platform to address the delivery of architectural pedagogy and the practice of Architectural Technology and Architecture.

Collaborative symposiums bring together experts and professionals from diverse fields to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and foster innovation; from cross-disciplinary mingling to networking opportunities, these allow for a global reach using innovative formats and inventive custom created themes. Besides exhange of knowledge, such collaborations inspire, motivate, and contribute to the formation of vibrant communities of practice. The predominant theme, *Architecture and Architectural Technology: Design challenges in protecting the past and creating a sustainable future*, set the stage for engaging discussions, innovative presentations, and collaborative exchanges aimed at addressing the pressing issues facing the design and construction industry. MiSD received a total of over 60+ abstracts from authors across the globe, from regional submissions to authors from India, Australia and the Philippines. Sustainability emerged as a central theme with discussions focusing on eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient designs. The future of Architecture and Architectural Technology hinges on its commitment to sustainable, climate-resilient practices and MiSD aimed to create and take forth the same dialogues.

Distinguished speakers, including Eddie Weir PCIAT, President and Professor Sam Allwinkle PPBIAT FCIAT, Edinburgh Napier University, delivered thought-provoking inaugural notes. Their insights emphasised the importance of embracing innovation and sustainability to address the evolving needs of our built environment. Amer Bin Ahmed, Vice Chair, ASTM International, was one of the keynote speakers who emphasised the foray of *3D printing within the construction industry.* Dr Waleed Yagoub, Co-Founder and Treasurer of the Society of Sustainability & Building Materials, highlighted the importance of future sustainable practices.

Professor Barbara Klinkhammer, Dean at Thomas Jefferson University, addressed a virtual keynote on integrating interdisciplinary design education and artificial intelligence. Dr. Chaham Alalouch, Editor-in-Chief, presented a brief on the Journal, Open House International, Emerald Publishing as selected papers from presenters will be published. Dr Suha Jaradat FCIAT, Associate Professor & Research lead for Built Environment, School of Computing, Engineering & the Built Environment, Edinburgh Napier University, and Dr Shaji Panicker, Research Co-ordinator, School of Design & Architecture, Manipal Academy of Higher Education Dubai, as Convenors addressed the participants and extended their heartfelt gratitude to all speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and participants for their invaluable contributions.

> Collaborative symposiums bring together experts and professionals from diverse fields to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and foster innovation; from cross-disciplinary mingling to networking opportunities, these allow for a global reach using innovative formats and inventive custom created themes

Throughout this collective experience, we witnessed the power of collaboration and the magic that unfolds when individuals from diverse backgrounds come together with a shared purpose. MiSD 2024 concluded as a resounding success, achieiving its objectives of fostering intellectual exchange, collaboration, and innovation in Architectural Technology and Architecture. As coordinators of the symposium, Asifa Mahajabeen and I played a pivotal role in coordinating logistics, managing resources, and ensuring smooth operations throughout the event.

The symposium itself served as a platform for forging new partnerships, research collaborations, and professional connections alongside knowledge dissemination, networking and collaboration opportunities, community building and most importantly to inspire and motivate.

Beyond the presentations and discussions, what truly stood out is the spirit of camaraderie and mutual support. The fact that, as a community of thinkers, we embraced different perspectives, challenged conventional thinking, and unified the richness of diversity in all its forms. We aspire, that outside the precincts of our home ground, we approach design with renewed energy, determination, and optimism, knowing that together we have the power to shape a brighter future for generations to come. ■

Graduate mentoring – how to get workplace-ready

Words by PLD Mentoring

According to a 2019 survey by Pearson Business School, nearly a fifth of graduates were found to be not "workplace-ready".

Just 13% of the 531 employers and HR leaders who took part in the research felt that graduates were ready to hit the ground running after university. 48% of the surveyed employers and HR managers said that graduates lacked leadership skills, 44% felt graduates lacked negotiation skills and 38% identified strategy and planning skills as being deficient.

This was backed up by another Pearson Business School study of 1,012 graduates which found that 34% felt unprepared when it came to leadership skills, 25% when it came to negotiation skills and 23% felt they lacked relevant technical skills. The survey also concluded that many felt unprepared for the graduate recruitment process, having had little opportunity to either speak to a career advisor or to take part in mock interviews.

The impact of the events of 2020 will have done nothing to help the situation with many new graduates having found it extremely difficult to find employment. Those who did were entering a very different world of work, often having to get to grips with a new organisation and new role at a distance while working remotely.

Even for graduates post the pandemic lockdowns, who are now able to begin their job roles in 'normal' circumstances, the transition from university to the workplace can still be a difficult one.

Thankfully help is at hand for those looking for support to ensure they are "workplace-ready". CIAT's online mentoring scheme, Mentor Match Me, enables graduates to search for mentors who can help to develop the soft skills that employers feel are lacking, helping the mentees to jump ahead of the competition when it comes to securing a graduate role and improving promotion prospects once in the job.

For those graduates looking for their first career break, mentors are able to provide a wealth of insight into career options, career search advice and interview preparation. The scheme provides all the necessary tools to enable graduates and mentors to identify the key challenges and goals to work on.

A positive of the pandemic is that meeting virtually is now the norm. This means for today's graduates it is possible to connect to a mentor and to meet through a choice of meeting options including MS Teams and Zoom, ensuring that support from a mentor is readily accessible.

To learn more and if you haven't already set up an account as a mentee, register at **ciat.mentormatch.me** ■

From sketchbooks to showcases

Words by Noel Hannan MCIAT

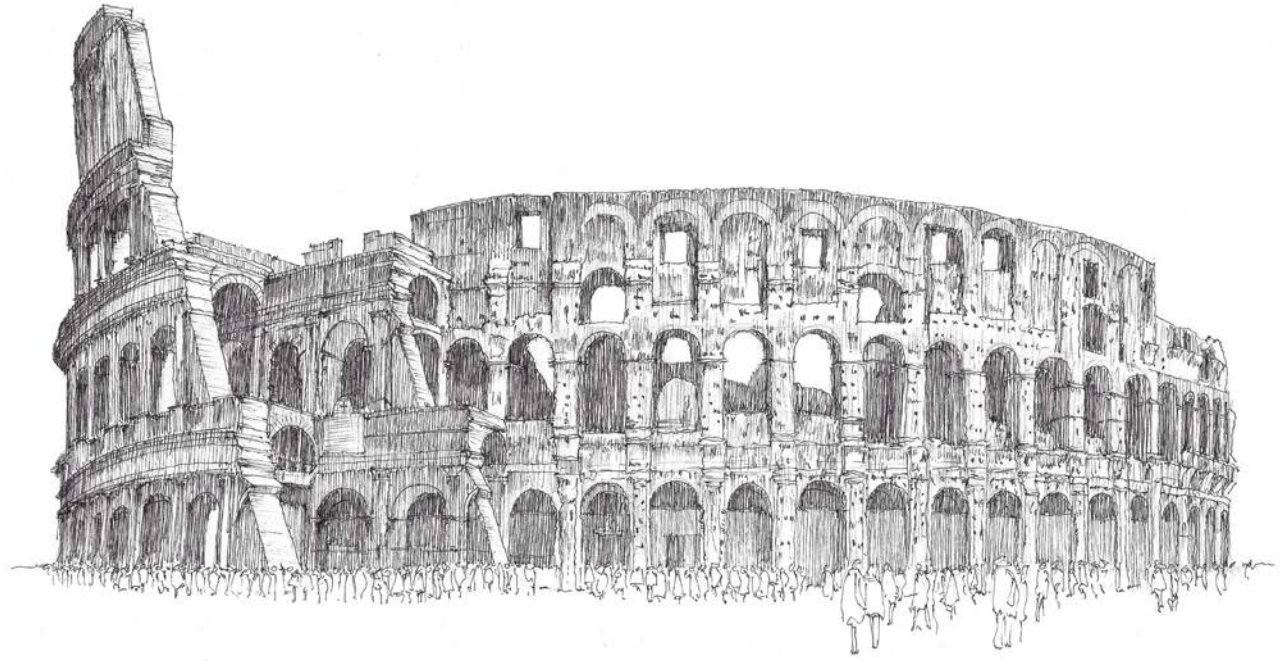
The technology behind buildings has always held my fascination. It began when my uncle brought home drawings he had from technical college where he was training to be an electrician. I would marvel at them and colour them in.

I have always thought it important that we, as a profession, should be able to sketch and draw by hand. Whether that is a detail at a site meeting, the layout of a room for a client or perspective of a façade treatment.

I have been drawing with pen and ink and watercolour wash for many years, using it as a sort of mental health therapy tool. I bring sketchbooks with me wherever I go and if I grab ten minutes here and there, I do a quick sketch. It helps to relax me and connect me to my environment. Over the years, I produced many sketchbooks but that is where my sketches stayed, in a book.

That all changed a few years ago when I was invited to join the Windsor Artists Collective (WAC), a discussion and exhibiting art group for experienced artists. The group exhibits most months in key locations where we sell art and engage directly with the public.

I can safely say that moment changed the direction of my art right then. I could no longer hide my work in a sketchbook. The drawings would be out there for all to see, but they had to be bigger. My sketchbooks were generally A5 size – way too small!



As mentioned above, in the WAC we exhibit every month or so. It is great to be able to talk to people about your art. My first exhibition was a litany of schoolboy mistakes however! I put the labels on the back of my framed work so that when they were hung on the wall, no one could see them! I made a quick alteration on the day and surprised myself by selling ten pieces.

This gave me the confidence to apply to be a member of the Society of Architectural Illustrators (SAI), an organisation that brings architectural illustrators and allied professions together in one society and promotes excellence across all disciplines. After submitting some work, I was invited to join. Now I had an additional platform to display my work and perhaps earn some commission from.

I now carry out commissions for many different people, from other architectural practices and private clients to estate agents, where I can give someone a drawing of their forever home. I believe a drawing can convey something that a photograph never can.

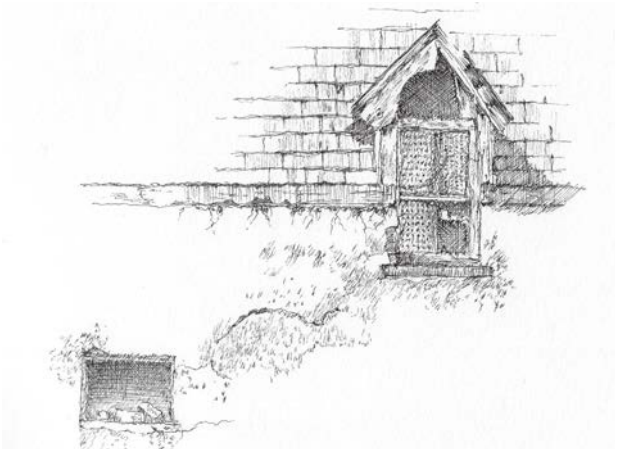
I get asked a lot of questions about the materials I use, specifically the pens. I mainly use fountain pens and have a number of different ones with varying colour inks. I particularly like using the Fude type nibs – these are fountain pen nibs that are bent at an angle. With a little practice you can get differing line weights which can add to your drawings. I also use both waterpoof ink, when applying a watercolour wash, and non-waterproof ink. Waterproof ink has thicker particles in it which means you have to clean your fountain pens regularly. I do mine every few months.

Recently, I have started to use antique dip pens. These are a little difficult to take on trips as you have the added problem of a bottle of ink to transport, which have a tendency to spill...

I also use pencil. Initially, I started all my drawings in pencil and then inked them; I was afraid I would ruin the drawing to go straight in with ink. But I found that there comes a time when you just have to go for it. Plus, it was taking too much time. You just have to accept there will be some errant lines and live with it.

I use a variety of different paper types and prefer heavy grade 300 gsm or higher. In the sketchbooks it varies. Heavy grade just feels better to me and also take wash easier they way I do it. I have used hand made papers and while these look great they can be difficult on your pen nibs.

My advice to any of you interested in sketching; get yourself a sketchbook, get outside, draw and most importantly, have fun. ■



Growing community of women in Architectural Technology in Scotland

Words by Magdalena Blazusiak MCIAT, Knowledge Exchange Coordinator, Scotland East Region

Considering the great work of numerous organisations such as Women in Property, Women in Construction, Equate Scotland and many more, it might come as a surprise to learn that women account for less than 7%* of Chartered Members in Scotland. Let's not forget that current data shows that over 32%* of student members are women.

Where is the industry failing us then? Can we identify the causes and offer tangible solutions to our members and affiliates who are women? Listening to the responses of the recent survey, Scotland East Region arranged their first Women in Architectural Technology event, in collaboration with Equate Scotland, Edinburgh Napier University and Robert Gordon University. It was aimed at celebrating diversity, versatility and resilience of women in Architectural Technology.

The event proved one thing; that there already is a community of women Architectural Technologists in Scotland. What we need now is a supportive, inclusive network that will allow all our members and affiliates who are women to thrive, providing opportunities locally, whatever our professional aspirations may be. The network can bridge the gap between personal and professional lives of our members and affiliates – instead of discussing work-life balance, acknowledging that our personal and professional lives are inherently intertwined.

We have learnt that it is not necessarily about seeing role models, but about finding a relatable story. The recent event provided just that, and perhaps more. With speakers discussing uneven and unruly career paths, one message was clear – it is not easy, but do not give up.

**member numbers as of January 2024*

Support can come from women and men, but we need to learn how to communicate our career goals and individual circumstances to our employers, peers and collaborators.

The speakers representing wider industry demonstrated opportunities for interdisciplinary, innovative approaches to collective action and success, stepping outside defined roles and responsibilities and valuing skills and experience we possess.

With the help of our supporters, Scotland East Region will continue our mission assisting Women in Architectural Technology in Scotland to feel empowered, included, respected and equipped with resources to cope with professional challenges. We can learn from each other, grow and speak up together, recognising the value of our work and our personal presence, gaining perspective and celebrating small victories – the all-important stepping stones of success.

Reflection by Jennifer Gordon, Junior Architectural Technologist at Harry Taylor and Co., recent graduate and a recipient of the Scotland East aspirATion Award for the Best Stage 4 Project at Robert Gordon University

"I view the Women in Architectural Technology event as an opportunity for the varied experiences of Architectural Technologists who are women to be presented. I believe that each person has their own journey into Architectural Technology – there is no right or wrong way to end up in this career. The event itself offered a unique lens to this. Women shared their journeys in AT with the opportunity to network and gain connections. It was a welcoming environment and created a feeling of community.

It felt uplifting to have a space to speak to my peers in the industry. My hope for the future is that there may be more in person events like this, to allow members and affiliates to meet and form a support network. Only then can we better understand how to support each other through activities of the networks geared towards meeting our individual needs."

We would like to extend our thanks to all our contributors, individuals and organisations including: AECB, Atelier 10, Edinburgh Napier University Equate Scotland, Glasgow City College, HLM Architects, Loco Home Retrofit, McWilliam Lippe Architects, Mass Timber Academy, New College Lanarkshire, Robert Gordon University, Smith Scott Mullan Architects, University of Edinburgh and Women in Property. ■

AT Awards 2024 open for entries!

Celebrating Architectural Technology at its best, the AT Awards are the premier accolades, nationally and internationally, that demonstrate outstanding achievement in the discipline.

The AT Awards are open for submissions and nominations for the following:

- Excellence in Architectural Technology - closes 23 June
- Student Awards for Excellence in Architectural Technology - closes 28 July
- Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year - closes 14 July
- **The aspirATion Award for Emerging Talent in AT** - closes 14 July
- Gold Award - closes 7 July

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